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Mid-Term Global Review on the Implementation
of the Programme of Action for the Least
Developed Countries for the 1990s
New York, 26 September 1995

# COMPENDIUM ON SPECIAL MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ADOPTED SINCE THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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CONTENTS

Page

INTRODUCTION ..... 3

I. GENERAL ..... 4 - 11

II. REFORMS ..... 12 - 17

III. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ..... 18 - 20

IV. EXTERNAL TRADE ..... 21 - 38

V. EXTERNAL FINANCE ..... 39 - 61

A. External assistance ..... 39 - 52

B. Technical co-operation ..... 52 - 60

C. Foreign direct investment ..... 60 - 61

VI. EXTERNAL DEBT ..... 62 - 67

VII. ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION ..... 68 - 72

# INTRODUCTION

This compendium of selected texts of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and other international agreements as they specifically refer to least developed countries has been prepared in response to a request by participants during the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries (Geneva, 29 May-2 June 1995).

It does not purport to be an exhaustive list of all the decisions from which least developed countries stand to benefit as developing countries or members of regional or other groupings. For a more complete picture of all measures applicable to the least developed countries and the context in which the measures included in this compendium were adopted, reference should be made to the full texts of the original decisions and declarations.

As an informal source of reference, the compendium is designed to facilitate the work of delegations and others participating at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, scheduled from 26 September to 6 October in New York. Its presentation is organized to broadly follow the structure of TD/B/LDC/AC.2/L.2.

The compendium covers the relevant decisions and declarations of the following conferences and other international fora convened since the adoption of the Programme of Action in favour of the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

- United Nations General Assembly (45th to 49th sessions: 1990 - 1994)
- UNCTAD Trade and Development Board (36th to 40th sessions: 1990 - 1994)
- UNCTAD Eighth session, Cartagena de Indias (February, 1992)
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro (June, 1992)
- World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna (June, 1993)
- Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations, Marrakesh (April, 1994)
- Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Barbados (April/May, 1994)
- World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama (May, 1994)
- International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo (September, 1994)
- Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, Paris (October, 1994)
- World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (March, 1995)
- Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (September, 1995)*

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* At the time of printing of the present Compendium, the texts of the Fourth World Conference on Women are still drafts and therefore not adopted.

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

## I. GENERAL

**General Assembly - 45th session (1990)**

- To achieve these fundamental aims (of the International Development Strategy) six interrelated goals must be met. They are:

....

- A special effort to deal with the problems of the least developed countries, the weakest among the developing countries (the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, resolution 45/199, annex, para.14).

- The Programme of Action adopted by the Conference (Second United Nations Conference on the LDCs) needs to be fully implemented (the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, resolution 45/199, annex, para.100).

**General Assembly - 46th session (1991)**

- *Reaffirming* the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, in which Member States stressed, *inter alia*, the need for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990 (resolution 46/156);

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

- *Reaffirming* the basic principles outlined in the Programme of Action as the basis for action by the least developed countries and their development partners, including international organizations, financial institutions and development funds, to promote fundamental, growth-oriented transformation of the economies or those countries (resolution 46/156);

- Calls upon all Governments, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organizations and programme of the United Nations system and all other organizations concerned to take concrete measures to implement fully the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s as a matter of urgency (resolution 46/156, para.2).

- *Strongly urges* the international community, in particular the donor countries, to implement fully and expeditiously their commitments in all areas, as set out in the Programme of Action, so as to provide adequate external support to the least developed countries, and to keep under review the possibility of implementing further new steps in specific areas of importance to the least developed countries (resolution 46/156, para.5).

**UNCTAD VIII (1992)**

- Accordingly, all LDCs should continue to enhance the implementation of national policies and measures in line with the Programme of Action, including

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| through macroeconomic policies conducive to long-term, sustained growth and sustainable development, the promotion of individual initiative and broad-based popular participation in the development process, the enhancement of human and institutional capacities and the expansion and modernization of the economic base. Their development partners should effectively and expeditiously implement the commitments undertaken or the measures proposed in the Programme of Action in all areas of international support, including ODA, debt relief and external trade. The Conference reaffirms that efforts to provide financial assistance to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will not diminish the commitments of the international community to implement effectively the Programme of Action (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.217). | |
| - .... While taking into account the measures which have already been taken, and while recognizing that these and other developments have affected LDCs to varying degrees, the Conference agrees that their overall impact calls for special attention (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.219). | - Since the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Paris in September 1990, a number of developments have taken place with adverse consequences for the development efforts of many LDCs. The Gulf war led to losses in export revenues and in receipts of remittances, to costs for the absorption of returning workers and to temporary increases in import costs. The changes in Eastern and Central Europe have led, in some cases, to losses of export markets, as well as of financial and technical assistance (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.219). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| - The problems of the LDCs should remain a priority topic in all relevant international forums. In this context, the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is invited to give special attention to the twin problems of poverty and degradation of the environment in the LDCs (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.227). | |
| **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro (1992)** | |
| - The industrialized countries and other countries in a position to do so should strengthen their efforts:<br>....<br>- To ensure that the processes of policy coordination take into account the interests and concerns of the developing countries, including the need to promote positive action to support the efforts of the least developed countries to halt their marginalization in the world economy (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1, chapter 2D, para.2.36(c)). | |
| - Particular efforts in the implementation of the four programme areas (viz: promoting sustainable development through trade; making trade and environment mutually supportive; providing adequate financial resources to developing countries, and encouraging economic policies conducive to sustainable development) identified in this chapter are warranted in view of the especially acute environmental and developmental problems | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| of the least developed countries (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1, chapter 2D, para.2.44(b)). | |
| - The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority. International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interests and needs of all countries (Rio Declaration, Principle 6). | |
| **General Assembly - 48th session (1993)** | |
| - Reaffirms the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (resolution 48/171, para.1). | - Expressing serious concern about the continued deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the least developed countries as a whole, ...(resolution 48/171). |
| - Calls upon all Governments, international organizations, multilateral financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and all other organizations concerned to take concrete measures to implement fully the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s as a matter of urgency (resolution 48/171, para.2). | - Stresses that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities by the least developed countries for their economic growth and development, as well as a strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners (resolution 48/171, para.6). |
| **World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama (1994)** | |
| - *Emphasizing* the need for the United Nations system to pay special attention to the least developed and land-locked countries and small island developing States, and recalling in this | - In this context the least developed countries, small island developing States and land-locked countries are the most vulnerable countries, as they are the least equipped to mitigate disasters. Developing |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| regard that the outcomes of the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s call for giving priority attention to small island developing States and least developed countries in the activities of the Decade (A/CONF.172/9, annex I: Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, containing the Principles, the Strategy and the Plan of Action). | countries affected by desertification, drought and other types of natural disasters are also equally vulnerable and insufficiently equipped to mitigate natural disasters (A/CONF.172/9, annex I: Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World, I.A. Basis for the Strategy, para.2). |
| - Supporting efforts of Governments at the national and regional levels in the implementation of the priority areas of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island developing States, related to the management of natural and environmental disasters through measures referred to in paragraph 13(b) above ["13(b) It is recommended that donor countries should increase the priority on disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness in their assistance programmes and budgets, either on bilateral or multilateral basis, including increasing contributions to and through the Decade Trust Fund, in order to support fully the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy, particularly in developing countries"] (A/CONF.172/9, annex I, Plan of Action, para.13(l)). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (1994)**<br><br>- In order to achieve the objective of this Convention and to implement its provisions, the Parties shall be guided, inter alia, by the following:<br>....<br>(d) the Parties should take into full consideration the special needs and circumstances of affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them (A/AC.241/27, Article 3, Principles). | |
| **World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (1995)**<br><br>Members of the international community should, bilaterally or through multilateral organizations, foster an enabling environment for poverty eradication by:<br><br>- Coordinating policies and programmes to support the measures being taken in the developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, to eradicate poverty, provide remunerative work and strengthen social integration in order to meet basic social development goals and targets (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, chapter II, para.30(a)). | - The economies and societies of the world are becoming increasingly interdependent. Trade and capital flows, migrations, scientific and technological innovations, communications and cultural exchanges are shaping the global community. The same global community is threatened by environmental degradation, severe food crises, epidemics, all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia, various forms of intolerance, violence and criminality and the risk of losing the richness of cultural diversity. Governments increasingly recognize that their responses to changing circumstances and their desires to achieve sustainable development and social progress will |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | require increased solidarity, expressed through appropriate multilateral programmes and strengthened international cooperation. Such cooperation is particularly crucial to ensure that countries in need of assistance, such as those in Africa and the least developed countries, can benefit from the process of globalization (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, chapter I, para.5). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

## II. REFORMS

### UNCTAD VIII (1992)

- Particular attention needs to be paid to the reactivation and acceleration of growth and to sustained development in the least developed countries (LDCs). The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s should be implemented fully, effectively and on a timely basis by all parties. In the development partnership underlying the Programme of Action, the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for elaborating and implementing effective strategies and policies for their growth and development, including policies for the eradication of poverty, and their development partners have accepted the responsibility for supporting these efforts (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.216).

- As recognized by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, domestic instability in some LDCs has had adverse effects on their development. The end of the cold war and the progress recently achieved in the settlement of regional conflicts could provide opportunities for reducing such instability (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.225).

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| **UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 39th session (1992)**<br><br>- The least developed countries reiterated that they would continue to enhance the implementation of national policies and measures in line with the Programme of Action, including the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies conducive to long-term sustained growth and the alleviation of poverty, mobilizing domestic resources and ensuring broad-based participation in development (TD/B/39(1)/15, Chairperson's statement, para.9).<br><br>**General Assembly - 48th session (1993)**<br><br>- Welcomes the fundamental and far-reaching domestic reforms that have been or are being implemented by the least developed countries and notes that such efforts should be continued (resolution 48/171, para.3).<br><br>**UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 39th session (1993)**<br><br>- The LDCs reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of reforms including structural adjustment programmes. The Board emphasized the need for the formulation of medium to long-term strategies for socio-economic development, for which a stable political environment was considered necessary. It was stressed that Governments should properly prioritize their short, medium, and long-term objectives, and the mechanisms | - It was agreed that progress cannot be achieved without sustainable good governance and the concerted efforts of LDC Governments towards economic and social development. It was further agreed that the objectives stated in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s can be fully realized through a strong and committed partnership between the LDCs and their |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| through which these could be achieved (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX), para.2). | development partners (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX), para.3).<br><br>- Among the priorities the following were emphasized: human resource development; strengthened policies to combat the problem of population growth; a revitalization of the agricultural sector and an improvement in the food security situation; more vigorous efforts to mobilize and effectively utilize domestic savings; appropriate fiscal reforms and rationalization of public expenditure in coordination with other macroeconomic and sectoral reforms, including trade policy reforms. In this context, the efforts made by the LDCs in respect of reform measures are appreciated (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX), para.4). |
| **World Conference on Human Rights (1993)**<br><br>- The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that the least developed countries committed to the process of democratization and economic reforms, many of which are in Africa, should be supported by the international community in order to succeed in their transition to democracy and economic development (A/CONF.157/23, Part I, para.9). | |
| **UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 40th session (1994)** | - The Board was encouraged to find that roughly one quarter of the least developed countries had achieved good growth with per capita output rising during |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| | the early 1990s. However, for LDCs as a whole, per capita income had declined during this period, leading to deteriorating living conditions, particularly in many African LDCs. The Board was concerned that the development outlook of most least developed countries remained sombre. Unpredictable weather conditions, natural disasters and the unfavourable external situation continued to contribute to the poor performance of LDCs. Political conflicts and civil strife in some LDCs had serious implications for their development prospects, and it was important to bring such conflicts to an early and peaceful settlement (agreed conclusions 413 (XL), para.3). |
| Donor countries were invited to provide adequate resources for the implementation of these programmes. The need for LDCs' ownership of adjustment and reform programmes and for continued commitment of both LDCs and their development partners to their sustained implementation were stressed. It was recommended that the adjustment packages should be consistent with long-term priorities of LDCs to take into consideration possible social and political consequences. These reforms should also take into account the diversity of conditions and circumstances in the countries concerned and be implemented in a flexible manner (agreed conclusions 413 (XL), para.5). | - The Board noted with appreciation that in recent years most least developed countries had embarked on a process of structural adjustment and wide-ranging reforms, including privatization. This process could guarantee neither immediate results nor equitable sharing of costs and benefits, but the efforts of these countries provided a context in which growth and structural transformation could reinforce each other. External financing was often critical to this process. There was evidence that ambitious and sustained economic reforms, underpinned by external support, had improved the economic performance of a number of LDCs (agreed conclusions 413 (XL), para.5). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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**World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (1995)**

- We commit ourselves to accelerating the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries.

To this end, we will:

- support the domestic efforts of Africa and the least developed countries to implement economic reforms, programmes to increase food security, and commodity diversification efforts through international cooperation, including South-South cooperation and technical and financial assistance, as well as trade and partnership (A/CONF.166/9, Copenhagen Declaration, para.29, Commitment 7(b)).

- ensure the implementation of the strategies and measures for the development of Africa decided by the international community, and support the reform efforts, development strategies and programmes decided by the African countries and the least developed countries (A/CONF.166/9, Copenhagen Declaration, para.29, Commitment 7(d)).

- The promotion of mutually reinforcing, broad-based, sustained economic growth and sustainable development on a global scale, as well as growth in production, a non-discriminatory and multilateral rule-based international trading system, employment and incomes, as a basis for social development, requires the following actions:

- More than one billion people in the world live in abject poverty, most of whom go hungry every day. A large proportion, the majority of whom are women, have very limited access to income, resources, education, health care or nutrition, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries (A/CONF.166/9, Copenhagen Declaration, para.16(b)).

- While these problems are global in character and affect all countries, we clearly acknowledge that the situation of most developing countries, and particularly of Africa and the least developed countries, is critical and requires special attention and action. We also acknowledge that these countries, which are undergoing fundamental political, economic and social transformation, including countries in the process of consolidating peace and democracy, require the support of the international community (A/CONF.166/9, Copenhagen Declaration, para.17).

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| .... | |
| - promoting enterprise, productive investment and expanded access to open and dynamic markets in the context of an open, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, predictable, transparent and multilateral rule-based international trading system, and to technologies for all people, particularly those living in poverty and the disadvantaged, as well as for the least developed countries (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, para.9(c)). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

## III. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 40th session (1994)**

- The Board underscored that investment in basic education, training and health care was the foundation on which to build sustainable growth and development in LDCs. Concern was expressed at the loss of scarce skilled human resources from LDCs and the Board stressed the need for effective incentives to retain these resources. The Board pointed out that policies in the areas of education, training and health care could be further improved without detriment to other important sectors of expenditure. An important reason for LDCs to give higher priority to health and education was their impact on demographic trends: there was a positive correlation between enhanced status and better education and health of women and lower birth rates and improved productivity (agreed conclusions 413 (XL), para.4).

**International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo (1994)**

- Population policies should take into account, as appropriate, development strategies agreed upon in multilateral forums, in particular the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, the outcomes of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Development, and of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, Agenda 21 and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa, in the 1990s (A/CONF.171/13, chapter III, para.3.10).<br><br>- Building the capacity and self-reliance of countries to undertake concerted national action to promote sustained economic growth, to further sustainable national development and to improve the quality of life for the people is a fundamental goal. This requires the retention, motivation and participation of appropriately trained personnel working within effective institutional arrangements, as well as relevant involvement by the private sector and non-governmental organizations. The lack of adequate management skills, particularly in the least developed countries, critically reduces the ability for strategic planning, weakens programme execution, lessens the quality of services and thus diminishes the usefulness of programmes to their beneficiaries. The recent trend towards decentralization of authority in national population and development programmes, particularly in government programmes, significantly increases the requirement for trained staff to meet new or expanded responsibilities at the lower administrative levels. It also modifies the "skill mix" required in central institutions, with policy analysis, evaluation and strategic planning having higher priority than previously (A/CONF.171/13, chapter XIII, para.13.7). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| **Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (1995)** | |
| | - Recent international economic developments have had in many cases a disproportionate impact on women and children, the majority of whom live in developing countries. For those States that have carried a large burden of foreign debt, structural adjustment programmes and measures, though beneficial in the long term, have led to a reduction in social expenditures, thereby adversely affecting women, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries. This is exacerbated when responsibilities for basic social services have shifted from Governments to women (A/CONF.177/L.7 - Draft Platform for Action, chapter II, para.20). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

## IV. EXTERNAL TRADE

**General Assembly - 45th session (1990)**

- The diversification of the economies of developing countries and their increased participation in the processing, marketing and distribution of their commodities is of the utmost importance. The second window of the Common Fund for Commodities should be effectively used in this regard, particularly for technical assistance and for commodity-specific programmes for horizontal and vertical diversification, especially for the least developed countries. The diversification process should also be supported through the provision of improved market access for primary and processed commodities. Co-operation among developing countries could also play a significant role in the processing, transportation and marketing of commodities (the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, resolution 45/199, annex, para.53).

-..... Existing compensatory financing schemes, particularly the Compensatory and Contingency Financing Facility of the International Monetary Fund, should be strengthened as appropriate (the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, resolution 45/199, annex, para.54).

- Special attention is needed to facilitate increased access of exports of the

- Compensatory financing is an important means of cushioning developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, against commodity-related shortfalls in export earnings (the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, resolution 45/199, annex, para.54).

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

least developed countries to major markets. Enhanced compensatory financing for export earnings shortfalls should be considered (the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, resolution 45/199, annex, para.100).

**UNCTAD VIII (1992)**

- ...The resources of the Common Fund should be fully exploited. Arrears in the payment of subscriptions to the capital of the Common Fund could be an impediment to the achievement of its objectives and should be paid up as soon as possible. Resources of the Second Account of the Common Fund should be increased, particularly through the fulfilment of pledges of voluntary contributions, as soon as possible. Efforts for the elaboration and consideration of appropriate project proposals, including those for diversification, for financing through the Second Account should be speeded up. Every effort should be made to ensure that this Account becomes fully operational as soon as possible and benefits in particular the least developed countries and the commodities of interest to developing countries, particularly those of small producers-exporters (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.207).

- The Conference has thus identified the following areas for priority action:

.....

- In the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, special

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

attention should be given to the situation and particular problem of LDCs, including, among other measures, enhanced access for their products through the elimination where possible of tariff and non-tariff barriers, the fullest possible liberalization of trade in textiles and clothing for LDCs, possible modalities for special treatment for tropical products of special interest to LDCs, and advanced implementation of MFN concessions of particular interest to LDCs made by the contracting parties to GATT (TD/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment,para.220(c)).

- The Conference calls upon preference-giving countries to implement fully, as a matter of urgency, the relevant provisions of the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action in respect of GSP measures in favour of least developed countries and urges that special consideration be given to products of export interest to them, in particular the provision of duty-free access (TD/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment,para.220(d)).

**General Assembly - 48th session (1993)**

- Reiterates that increased opportunities for trade can help reactivate economic growth in the least developed countries, and calls for significantly improved market access for their products, particularly through the elimination, wherever possible, or substantial reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, as well as

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| giving special attention to the problems of the least developed countries within the context of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, with a view to integrating them in the global trading system (resolution 48/171, para.12). | |
| **UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 39th session (1993)** | - It was stressed that fair access to all markets is a key instrument for the promotion of trade and development. In view of their marginalization in world trade, it was proposed by the LDCs that the Final Act of the Uruguay Round should include a distinct chapter embodying the specific provisions for LDCs covering the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers for both primary and processed products. The LDCs are of the view that the Draft Final Act (DFA) of the Uruguay Round does not adequately reflect the needs and requirements of LDCs in terms of their access to markets and the new issues such as trade-related intellectual property rights, trade-related investment measures and services. LDCs, joined by a number of other delegations, requested that a high-level group should be organized to examine thoroughly the provisions of the DFA as they relate to LDCs and propose concrete measures for inclusion in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX, para 9). |
| **UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 40th session (1994)** | - The Board noted that the extremely low export capacity of most of the LDCs |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | continued to be one of the major obstacles to growth and a source of their special dependence on ODA for financing, necessary investment, imports and technical support for development. The Board welcomed the adoption of trade liberalization policies and measures by an increasing number of LDCs; however, difficulties persisted in expanding their external trading opportunities. Commodity and market diversification measures had been rendered difficult principally by lack of investment, technology and skills to augment levels of production and efficiency. UNCTAD should undertake a careful examination of the implications and opportunities for the LDCs of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round and suggest measures for removing any imbalances through, inter alia, additional trade preferences, financial assistance and debt relief. The special and differential measures for LDCs included in the Final Act should be implemented expeditiously and in a supportive manner. UNCTAD and ITC, according to their competence, should also provide technical assistance to LDCs in order to strengthen their capacity to implement the provisions of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round and to derive full benefits from the results of the Round. The provision of such assistance would be enhanced through further continued cooperation between UNCTAD and GATT/WTO (agreed conclusions 413 (XL), para.8). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| **Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations, Marrakesh (1994)**<br>(Final Act of the Uruguay Round)<br><br>- Ministers recall that the results of the negotiations embody provisions conferring differential and more favourable treatment for developing economies, including special attention to the particular situation of least-developed countries. Ministers recognize the importance of the implementation of these provisions for the least-developed countries and declare their intention to continue to assist and facilitate the expansion of their trade and investment opportunities. They agree to keep under regular review by the Ministerial Conference and the appropriate organs of the WTO the impact of the results of the Round on the least-developed countries as well as the net food-importing developing countries, with a view to fostering positive measures to enable them to achieve their development objectives. Ministers recognize the need for strengthening assistance in their areas of competence, and in particular to substantially expand its provision to the least-developed countries (Marrakesh Declaration of 15 April 1994, para.5).<br><br>- The committee on trade and development shall periodically review the special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements in favour of the least-developed country Members and report to the General Council for appropriate action (Agreement establishing the WTO, Article IV: Structure of the WTO, para.7). | ....<br><br>*Recognizing* further that there is need for positive efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, and especially the least-developed among them, secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development (Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| - The least-developed countries recognized as such by the United Nations will only be required to undertake commitments and concessions to the extent consistent with their individual development, financial and trade needs or their administrative and institutional capabilities (Agreement establishing the WTO, Article XI: Original Membership, para.2). | |
| - Consultations may be held under the simplified procedures approved on 19 December 1972 (BISD 20S/47-49, referred to in this Understanding as "simplified consultation procedures") in the case of least-developed country Members...Except in the case of least-developed country Members, no more than two successive consultations may be held under simplified consultation procedures (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Understanding on the balance-of-payments provision of the GATT 1994, Procedures for Balance-of-Payments Consultations, para.8). | |
| - The schedule annexed to this Protocol relating to a Member shall become a Schedule to GATT 1994 relating to that Member on the day on which the WTO Agreement enters into force for that Member. Any schedule submitted in accordance with the Ministerial Decision on measures in favour of least-developed countries shall be deemed to be annexed to this Protocol (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Marrakesh Protocol to the GATT 1994, para.1). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| - Developing country Members shall have the flexibility to implement reduction commitments over a period of up to 10 years. Least-developed country Members shall not be required to undertake reduction commitments (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Agriculture, Part IX, Article 15: Special and Differential Treatment, para.2). | |
| - In the preparation and application of sanitary or phytosanitary measures, Members shall take account of the special needs of developing country Members, and in particular of the least-developed country Members (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; Article 10: Special and Differential Treatment, para.1). | |
| - The least-developed country Members may delay application of the provisions of this Agreement for a period of five years following the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement with respect to their sanitary or phytosanitary measures affecting importation or imported products (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; Article 14: Final Provisions). | |
| - *Recalling* further that it was agreed that special treatment should be accorded to the least-developed country Members (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| Trade in Goods - Agreement on Textiles and Clothing);...<br><br>- Members agree to use the provisions of paragraph 18 of Article 2 and paragraph 6(b) of Article 6 in such a way as to permit meaningful increases in access possibilities for small suppliers and the development of commercially significant trading opportunities for new entrants in the field of textiles and clothing trade (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Textiles and Clothing; Article 1, para.2).<br><br>- In the application of the transitional safeguard, particular account shall be taken of the interests of exporting Members as set out below:<br>(a) least-developed country Members shall be accorded treatment significantly more favourable than that provided to the other groups of Members referred to in this paragraph, preferably in all its elements but, at least, on overall terms (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, Article 6, para.6).<br><br>- ... Accordingly, with a view to ensuring that developing country Members are able to comply with this Agreement, the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade provided for in Article 13 (referred to in this Agreement as the "Committee") is enabled to grant, upon request, specified, time-limited exceptions in whole or in part from obligations under this Agreement. When considering such requests the Committee shall take into account the | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| special problems, in the field of preparation and application of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, and the special development and trade needs of the developing country Member, as well as its stage of technological development, which may hinder its ability to discharge fully its obligations under this Agreement. The Committee shall, in particular, take into account the special problems of the least-developed country Members (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade; Article 12: Special and Differential Treatment of Developing Country Members, para.12.8). | |
| - Developed country Members shall take such action as is provided for within the framework of the decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (Annex 1A: ..Agreement on Agriculture; Part IX, Article 16: Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Countries, para.1). | ...<br>*Noting* that commitments under the reform programme should be made in an equitable way among all members, having regard to non-trade concerns, including food security and the need to protect the environment; having regard to the agreement that special and differential treatment for developing countries is an integral element of the negotiations, and taking into account the possible negative effective of the implementation of the reform programme on least-developed and net food-importing countries (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Agriculture). |
| - *Ministers* further *agree* to ensure that any agreement relating to agricultural export credits makes appropriate provision for differential treatment in favour of least-developed and net food-importing | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| developing countries (Ministerial Decisions and Declarations: Decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on least-developed and net food-importing developing countries). | |
| - *Decide* that, if not already provided for in the instruments negotiated in the course of the Uruguay Round, notwithstanding their acceptance of these instruments, the least-developed countries, and for so long as they remain in that category, while complying with the general rules set out in the aforesaid instruments, will only be required to undertake commitments and concessions to the extent consistent with their individual development, financial and trade needs, or their administrative and institutional capabilities. The least-developed countries shall be given additional time of one year from 15 April 1994 to submit their schedules as required in Article XI of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (Ministerial Decisions and Declarations: Decision on Measures in favour of Least-Developed Countries). | *Ministers*,<br><br>- *Recognizing* the plight of the least-developed countries and the need to ensure their effective participation in the world trading system, and to take further measures to improve their trading opportunities; (Ministerial Decisions and Declarations: Decision on Measures in favour of Least-Developed Countries). |
| *Ministers*,<br>.....<br>*Agree* that:<br><br>(i) Expeditious implementation of all special and differential measures taken in favour of least-developed countries including those taken within the context of the Uruguay Round shall be ensured through, inter alia, regular reviews; | - *Recognizing* the specific needs of the least-developed countries in the area of market access where continued preferential access remains an essential means for improving their trading opportunities (Ministerial Decisions and Declarations: |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| (ii) To the extent possible, MFN concessions on tariff and non-tariff measures agreed in the Uruguay Round on products of export interest to the least developed countries may be implemented autonomously, in advance and without staging. Consideration shall be given to further improve GSP and other schemes for products of particular export interest to least-developed countries. | Decision on Measures in favour of Least Developed Countries). |
| (iii) The rules set out in the various agreements and instruments and the transitional provisions in the Uruguay Round should be applied in a flexible and supportive manner for the least-developed countries. To this effect, sympathetic consideration shall be given to specific and motivated concerns raised by the least-developed countries in the appropriate Councils and Committees (Ministerial Decisions and Declarations: Decision on Measures in favour of Least-Developed Countries). | |
| .... | |
| - *Agree* to keep under review the specific needs of the least-developed countries and to continue to seek the adoption of positive measures which facilitate the expansion of trading opportunities in favour of these countries. (Ministerial Decisions and Declarations: Decision on measures in favour of Least-Developed Countries). | |
| - Each Member shall eliminate all TRIMs which are notified under paragraph 1 within two years of the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement in the case of a developed country Member, | - *Taking into account* the particular trade, development and financial needs of developing country Members, particularly those of the least-developed country Members (Annex 1A: Multilateral |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| within five years in the case of a developing country Member, and within seven years in the case of a least-developed country Member (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Trade-related Investment Measures; Article 5: Notification and Transitional Arrangements, para.2).<br><br>- On request, the Council for Trade in Goods may extend the transition period for the elimination of TRIMs notified under paragraph 1 for a developing country Member, including a least-developed country Member, which demonstrates particular difficulties in implementing the provisions of this Agreement. In considering such a request, the Council for Trade in Goods shall take into account the individual development, financial and trade needs of the Member in question (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Trade-related Investment Measures; Article 5: Notification and Transitional Arrangements, para.3).<br><br>- In allocating licences, .... special consideration should be given to those importers importing products originating in developing country Members and, in particular, the least-developed country Members (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures; Article 3: Non-Automatic Import Licensing, para.5 (j)).<br><br>- The prohibition of paragraph 1(b) of Article 3 shall not apply to developing | Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Trade-related Investment Measures). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| country Members for a period of five years, and shall not apply to least-developed country Members for a period of eight years, from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, Part VIII, Article 27: Special and Differential Treatment of Developing Country Members, para.27.3).<br><br>- The developing country Members not subject to the provisions of paragraph 1(a) of Article 3 under the terms of paragraph 2(a) of Article 27 are:<br>(a) Least-developed countries designated as such by the United Nations which are Members of the WTO (Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, Annex VII).<br><br>- Special priority shall be given to the least-developed country Members in the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2. Particular account shall be taken of the serious difficulty of the least-developed countries in accepting negotiated specific commitments in view of their special economic situation and their development, trade and financial needs (Annex 1B: General Agreement on Trade in Services, Part II, Article IV: Increasing Participating of Developing Countries).<br><br>- ... Negotiating guidelines shall establish modalities for the treatment of liberalization undertaken autonomously by Members since previous negotiations, as well as for the special treatment for least- | - *Taking* particular account of the serious difficulty of the least-developed countries in view of their special economic situation and their development, trade and |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| developed country Members under the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article IV (Annex 1B: General Agreement on Trade in Services, Part IV, Article XIX: Negotiation of Specific Commitments, para.3).<br><br>- In view of the special needs and requirements of least-developed country Members, their economic, financial and administrative constraints, and their need for flexibility to create a viable technological base, such Members shall not be required to apply the provisions of this Agreement, other than Articles 3, 4 and 5, for a period of 10 years from the date of application as defined under paragraph 1 of Article 65. The Council for TRIPS shall, upon duly motivated request by a least-developed country Member, accord extensions of this period (Annex 1C: Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights; Part VI: Transitional Arrangements, Article 66, para.1).<br><br>- At all stages of the determination of the causes of a dispute and of dispute settlement procedures involving a least-developed country Member, particular consideration shall be given to the special situation of least-developed country Members. In this regard, Members shall exercise due restraint in raising matters under these procedures involving a least-developed country Member. If nullification or impairment is found to result from a measure taken by a least-developed country Member, complaining parties shall exercise due restraint in | financial needs;... (Annex 1B: General Agreement on Trade in Services). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| asking for compensation or seeking authorization to suspend the application of concessions or other obligations pursuant to these procedures (Annex 2: Understanding on Rules and Procedures governing the Settlement of Disputes; Article 24: Special Procedures Involving Least-Developed Country Members, para.1). | |
| - In dispute settlement cases involving a least-developed country Member, where a satisfactory solution has not been found in the course of consultations, the Director-General or the Chairman of the DSB shall, upon request by a least-developed country Member, offer their good offices, conciliation and mediation with a view to assisting the parties to settle the dispute, before a request for a panel is made. The Director-General or the Chairman of the DSB, in providing the above assistance, may consult any source which either deems appropriate (Annex 2: Understanding on Rules and Procedures governing the Settlement of Disputes; Article 24: Special Procedures Involving Least-Developed Country Members, para.2). | |
| - The trade policies and practices of all Members shall be subject to periodic review.....Other Members shall be reviewed every six years, except that a longer period may be fixed for least-developed country Members (Annex 3: Trade Policy Review Mechanism; C. Procedures for review, para.(ii)). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

**World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (1995)**

- We commit ourselves to increasing significantly and/or utilizing more efficiently the resources allocated to social development in order to achieve the goals of the Summit through national action and regional and international cooperation.

At the international level, we will:

- Fully implement the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations as scheduled, including the complementary provisions specified in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, in recognition of the fact that broadly based growth in incomes, employment and trade are mutually reinforcing, taking into account the need to assist African countries and the least developed countries in evaluating the impact of the implementation of the Final Act so that they can benefit fully (A/CONF.166/9, Copenhagen Declaration, para.29, Commitment 9(p)).

- Within the framework of support to developing countries, giving priority to the needs of Africa and the least developed countries, the following actions are necessary at the national and international levels, as appropriate:

...

- Continuing to support the commodity diversification efforts of Africa and the least developed countries, inter alia, by providing technical and financial

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| assistance for the preparatory phase of their commodity diversification projects and programmes (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, chapter I, para.11(d)). | |
| - Taking appropriate actions, consistent with the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, in particular the decision on measures in favour of the least developed countries and the decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on the least developed countries and the net food importing developing countries, in order to give these countries special attention, with a view to enhancing their participation in the multilateral trading system and to mitigating any adverse effects of the implementation of the Uruguay Round, while stressing the need to support the African countries so that they can benefit fully from the results of the Uruguay Round (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, chapter I, para.11(g)). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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## V. EXTERNAL FINANCE

### A. External assistance

**General Assembly - 45th session (1990)**

- ..... Donor countries should, in the 1990s, implement such undertakings as they have made to reach or surpass this target, as well as the targets for the least developed countries as adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. There should also be continued improvement in the quality of aid as well as in its utilization. The release of resources from any reductions in military spending and the recovery in the industrial countries should ease the budgetary constraints of donor countries, and rising concern about the environment and world poverty should provide new opportunities for development co-operation (the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, resolution 45/199,annex, para.40).

- The present official development assistance targets, as agreed on at the Conference [on LDCs], should in the first instance, be met (International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, resolution 45/199, para.100).

**General Assembly - 46th session (1991)**

- Stresses that the implementation of growth and development-oriented domestic

- Official development assistance must remain an essential source of concessional aid to the developing countries, particularly to the poorest and the least developed. Aid programmes of donor countries have in many cases remained at low levels and need to be substantially improved in the 1990s. Official development assistance has, on average, remained at only half of the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, resolution 45/199,annex, para.40).

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

policy initiatives by the least developed countries deserves the increased support of all their development partners (resolution 46/156, para.4).

**UNCTAD VIII (1992)**

- The Conference reiterates that external financing support to complement domestic efforts and appropriate policies should be both sufficient in terms of volume and quality, and efficient in terms of allocation according to LDCs' individual development needs and priorities. It also reaffirms that a significant and substantial increase in the aggregate level of external support should be made available to the LDCs, taking into account those countries recently added to the list. In this context, the Conference takes note of the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD (TD/359). The donor countries reaffirm their determination to implement the commitments they have undertaken in the Programme of Action with regard to ODA to the 41 LDCs included in the list at the time of the 1990 Paris Conference. As far as concerns the consequences of the inclusion of six additional countries in the LDC list, at the second part of its thirty-eighth session in 1992 the Trade and Development Board should, when undertaking the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, consider the implications for appropriate adjustments for the commitments contained in the Programme in respect of targets and levels of ODA. The Governing Council of UNDP is also invited to consider adjusting the total

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

allocation of indicative planning figures (IPFs) to LDCs in the light of additions to the list of the LDCs. The call in the Programme of Action for increasing the resources of the United Nations Capital Development Fund by 20 per cent a year should also be appropriately adjusted (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.218).

- The Conference has thus identified the following areas for priority action:

....

(e) In view of the continued weaknesses in the markets for commodities which LDCs export, the international community should support LDC efforts towards diversification, increased processing and increased participation in the marketing of their products by providing adequate financial and technical assistance (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.220).

(f) The Conference recognizes that commodity-related shortfalls in export earnings of LDCs are in varying degrees an important obstacle to their development efforts. In this regard, beneficiary countries welcome the compensatory financing mechanisms-namely the Compensatory and Contingency Financing Facility of IMF, the ACP-EEC STABEX and SYSMIN schemes of the Lomé Convention, the EEC schemes for non-ACP least developed countries and the Swiss Compensatory Financing Programme. The Conference invites other

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

countries, which deem it appropriate, to consider introducing similar schemes and calls upon Governments and institutions to consider necessary improvements to existing mechanisms (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.220).

- Adequate humanitarian assistance should continue to be given to those LDCs facing acute problems arising from refugee flows, migration and population displacements caused by natural and man-made disasters (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.221).

- Donor countries and relevant multilateral financial and development institutions should consider providing island and land-locked LDCs with adequate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants and concessional loans for the development, maintenance and improvement of their transit infrastructure and facilities (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.222).

**UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 39th session (1992)**

- The development partners reaffirmed that a significant and substantial increase in the aggregate level and improvement in the quality of external support should be made available to LDCs (TD/B/39(1)/15, Chairperson's statement, para.10).

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| - In accordance with the Cartagena Commitment, the donor countries reaffirmed their determination to implement the commitments they have undertaken in the Programme of Action with regard to ODA to the 41 countries included in the list at the time of the Paris Conference and to continue their efforts to meet the resource requirements of all LDCs. The Committee reviewed the question of appropriate adjustments of the ODA commitments in respect of targets and levels of ODA as required by the Conference. The donors expressed their intention to examine the effects which the newly added countries to the list of LDCs have on the additional resource requirements of the LDC group as a whole. In light of the above, the Committee decided to consider this question at the second part of the thirty-ninth session of the Board (TD/B/39(1)/15, decision by the Special Sessional Committee, para.12). | |
| - Donors are urged to consider providing, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/156, extra-budgetary resources to facilitate participation of LDC delegations at the future reviews of the Programme of Action in the Trade and Development Board (TD/B/39(1)/15, decision by the Special Sessional Committee, para.13). | |
| **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro (1992)** | |
| -.... The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situation | - In general, the financing for the implementation of Agenda 21 will come |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| of least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology (Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 20, para.5).<br><br>- The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology (annex I to the Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, para.9).<br><br>- The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change:<br><br>- Appeals to Governments and organizations to make voluntary contributions to the extrabudgetary funds established under General Assembly resolution 45/212 in order to contribute to the costs of the interim arrangements, and to ensure full and effective participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing countries, as well as developing countries stricken by drought and desertification, in all the sessions of the Committee (resolution adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, INC/1992/1, para.5).<br><br>**General Assembly - 48th session (1993)**<br><br>- Notes the efforts of the international community, in particular the donor countries, to try to fulfil their | from a country's own public and private sectors. For developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, ODA is a main source of external funding, and substantial new and additional funding for sustainable development and implementation of Agenda 21 will be required (Agenda 21, chapter 33, para.33.15). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| commitments in all areas, as set out in the Programme of Action, and urges the provision of adequate external support to the efforts of the least developed countries, keeping under review the possibility of implementing further new steps in specific areas of importance to the least developed countries (resolution 48/171, para.4).<br><br>- Calls upon the donor countries to fulfil their aid commitments as contained in the Programme of Action on a priority basis and upwardly adjust them to reflect fully the additional resource requirements of the least developed countries, including those added to the list of least developed countries following the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (resolution 48/171, para.5).<br><br>- Calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to initiate further innovative measures to provide and mobilize financial and technical support for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action (resolution 48/171, para.8).<br><br>**UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 39th session (1993)**<br><br>- The performance of six donor countries which in 1991 met the upper ODA target of 0.20 per cent set out in the Programme of Action was noted with satisfaction. Other donor countries were urged to fulfil aid targets and commitments to the LDCs. In addition, the implications of the enlarged list of LDCs on their | - Many delegations, both from LDCs and donor countries, noted with concern that in 1991 ODA to LDCs fell from 0.09 per cent of Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors' combined GNP in the preceding two years to 0.08 per cent (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX), para.5). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| resource requirements calls for urgent consideration as recommended in the Cartagena Commitment. Efforts should continue to facilitate timely and efficient utilization of aid (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX), para.5). | |
| **UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 40th session (1994)** | |
| - The Board noted with great concern that ODA remained the single most important source of external financing for LDCs. It welcomed improved aid performance by some donors and strongly urged all donors to make urgent and intensified efforts to fulfil the ODA targets and the commitments undertaken in the Programme of Action. The Board was of the view that greater priority should be accorded to social sector programmes in allocating ODA. The donor countries were invited to adjust upwardly the aid targets and commitments contained in the Programme of Action so as to reflect fully the additional resource requirements of the LDCs, including those added to the list of LDCs following the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (agreed conclusions 413 (XL), para.6). | |
| **Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations, Marrakesh (1994)** | |
| - *Ministers* accordingly *agree* to establish appropriate mechanisms to ensure that the implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round on trade in agriculture does not adversely affect the availability of | - *Ministers recognize* that during the reform programme leading to greater liberalization of trade in agriculture least-developed and net food-importing developing countries may experience |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| food aid at a level which is sufficient to continue to provide assistance in meeting the food needs of developing countries, especially least-developed and net food-importing developing countries. To this end *Ministers agree:*<br>...<br>(ii) to adopt guidelines to ensure that an increasing proportion of basic foodstuffs is provided to least-developed and net food-importing countries in fully grant form and/or on appropriate concessional terms in line with Article IV of the Food Aid Convention 1986;<br><br>(iii) to give full consideration in the context of their aid programmes to requests for the provision of technical and financial assistance to least-developed and net food-importing countries to improve their agricultural productivity and infrastructure (Ministerial Decisions and Declarations: Decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on least-developed and net food-importing developing countries). | negative effects of the availability of adequate supplies of basic foodstuffs from external sources on reasonable terms and conditions, including short-term difficulties in financing normal levels of commercial imports of basic foodstuffs (Ministerial Decisions and Declarations: Decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on least-developed and net food-importing developing countries). |
| **Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Barbados (1994)**<br><br>- ....To maximize the benefits and impact of that financial and technical assistance, operational mechanisms should be reviewed and/or developed to ensure the fullest possible coordination among donors, small island developing States and relevant international and non-governmental organizations, taking into account local and community concerns (Report of the Global | - For small island developing states, in particular the least developed amongst them, official development assistance (ODA) is a major source of external funding (Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, annex II (XV-A), para.76). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, annex II (XV-A), para.76).<br><br>**World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama (1994)**<br><br>- The Trust Fund for the Decade should give priority in financing the establishment and strengthening of the early warning systems of the disaster prone developing countries particularly of the least developed, land-locked and small island developing States (A/CONF.172/9, annex I, Plan of Action, para.13(f)).<br><br>**International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo (1994)**<br><br>- Criteria for allocation of external financial resources for population activities in developing countries should include: The recognized priority to the least developed countries (A/CONF.171/13, chapter XIV, para.14.14 (b)).<br><br>....While some of the resources required could come from the reordering of priorities, additional resources will be needed. In this context, developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, will require additional resources, including on concessional and grant terms, according to sound and equitable indicators. Countries with economies in transition may also require temporary assistance in the light of the difficult economic and social problems these countries face at present. Developed countries, and others in a position to do so, | - The implementation of the goals, objectives and actions of the present Programme of Action will require new and additional financial resources from the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations and the international community (A/CONF.17/13, chapter XVI, para.16.18). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| should consider providing additional resources, as needed, to support the implementation of the decisions of this Conference through bilateral and multilateral channels, as well as through non-governmental organizations (A/CONF.17/13, chapter XVI, para.16.18).<br><br>**Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (1994)**<br><br>- In addition to their general obligations pursuant to article 4, developed country Parties undertake to:<br>(a) actively support, as agreed, individually or jointly, the efforts of affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and the least developed countries, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought (A/AC.241/27, Article 6: Obligations of developing country Parties).<br><br>- In providing such support to affected developing country Parties, priority shall be given to African country Parties and to least developed country Parties (A/AC.241/27, Article 13: Support for the elaboration and implementation of action programmes, para.2). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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**World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (1995)**

- Within the framework of support to developing countries, giving priority to the needs of Africa and the least developed countries, the following actions are necessary at the national and international levels, as appropriate:

...

Increasing official development assistance, both in total and for social programmes, and improving its impact, consistent with countries' economic circumstances and capabilities to assist, and consistent with commitments in international agreements, and striving to attain the agreed upon target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance and 0.15 per cent to the least developed countries, as soon as possible (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, chapter I, para.11(h)).

- Implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action in developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, will need additional financial resources and more effective development cooperation and assistance. This will require:

- Translating the commitments of the Summit into financial implications for social development programmes in developing countries, particularly Africa and the least developed countries (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, chapter V, para.88(a));

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|
| - Giving high priority in ODA to the eradication of poverty in developing countries, in particular in Africa, low-income countries in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the least developed countries (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, chapter V, para.88(d)). | |
| **Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (1995)** | |
| - Adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in the developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries. Strengthening national capacities in developing countries to implement the Platform for Action will require striving for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for overall official development assistance as soon as possible, as well as increasing the share of funding for activities designed to implement the Platform for Action. Furthermore, countries involved in development cooperation should conduct a critical analysis of their assistance programmes so as to improve the quality and effectiveness of aid through the integration of a gender approach (A/CONF.177/L.7, Draft Platform of Action, chapter VI, para.354). | |
| - International financial institutions, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the regional development | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

banks, should be invited to examine their grants and lending and to allocate loans and grants to programmes for implementing the Platform for Action in developing countries, especially in Africa and the least developed countries (A/CONF.177/L.7, Draft Platform of Action, chapter VI, para.355).

## B. Technical co-operation

**General Assembly - 46th session (1991)**

- *Emphasizes once again* the importance of economic and technical cooperation between the least developed countries and other developing countries, and, in that regard, highly recommends mechanisms of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries to strengthen the development efforts of the least developed countries, and urges the development partners to assist in such activities (resolution 46/156, para.13).

**UNCTAD VIII (1992)**

- The Conference has thus identified the following areas for priority action:

.....

- The Conference welcomes the proposal for holding a symposium between the LDCs and the constituent States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to discuss ways and means of promoting their economic cooperation (A/364/Rev.1, A new

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.220(g)).

**UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro (1992)**

- Organizations, organs, bodies and institutions of the United Nations system, together with other international and regional organizations and the public and private sectors, could, as appropriate, strengthen their joint activities in technical cooperation, including that related to technology transfer and know-how, in order to address linked environment and development issues and to promote coherence and consistency of action. Organizations could assist and reinforce countries, particularly least developed countries, upon request, on matters relating to national environmental and developmental policies, human resource development and fielding of experts, legislation, natural resources and environmental data (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1, Agenda 21, chapter 37, para.37.8).

**UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 39th session (1993)**

- Serious concern was expressed for improved balance between aid conditionalities and the capacity of LDCs to conform to them. Technical assistance should be better targeted towards strengthening human and institutional capacities in LDCs (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX), para.5).

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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**World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama (1994)**

- Considering the many common aspects of disaster vulnerability among countries of a same region or subregion, cooperation among them should be strengthened by implementing the following actions:

...

- Given the importance of vulnerability of developing countries, particularly least developed countries, technical, material and financial resources should be made available in support of concerned subregional or regional centres to strengthen regional and national capacities to reduce natural disasters (A/CONF.172/9, annex I, Plan of Action, para.12(b)).

**Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations, Marrakesh (1994)**

*Ministers agree* that:

.....

- Least-developed countries shall be accorded substantially increased technical assistance in the development, strengthening and diversification of their production and export bases including those of services, as well as in trade promotion, to enable them to maximize the benefits from liberalized access to markets (Ministerial Decisions and Declarations: Decision on measures in favour of Least-Developed Countries).

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| - In providing advice and technical assistance to other Members in terms of paragraphs 1 to 7, Members shall give priority to the needs of the least-developed country Members (annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Article 11.8). | |
| - ... In determining the terms and conditions of the technical assistance, account shall be taken of the stage of development of the requesting Members and in particular of the least-developed country Members (annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods - Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade; Article 12: Special and Differential Treatment of Developing Country Members, para.12.7). | |
| - Members shall give special consideration to opportunities for the least-developed countries to encourage foreign suppliers of telecommunications services to assist in the transfer of technology, training and other activities that support the development of their telecommunications infrastructure and expansion of their telecommunications services trade (annex 1B: General Agreement on Trade in Services, annex on Telecommunications, para. 6(d)). | |
| - Developed country Members shall provide incentives to enterprises and institutions in their territories for the purpose of promoting and encouraging technology transfer to least-developed country Members in order to enable them | ..... *Recognizing* also the special needs of the least-developed country Members in respect of maximum flexibility in the domestic implementation of laws and regulations in order to enable them to |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| to create a sound and viable technological base (Annex 1C: Intellectual Property Rights, Part VI, Article 66: Least Developed Country Members, para.2). | create a sound and viable technological base;<br>.....<br>Hereby *agree* as follows:<br>.....<br>(annex 1C: Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.) |
| - In order to facilitate the implementation of this Agreement, developed country Members shall provide, on request and on mutually agreed terms and conditions, technical and financial cooperation in favour of developing and least-developed country Members. Such cooperation shall include assistance in the preparation of laws and regulations on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights as well as on the prevention of their abuse, and shall include support regarding the establishment or reinforcement of domestic offices and agencies relevant to these matters, including the training of personnel (annex 1C: Intellectual Property Rights, Part VI, Article 67: Technological Cooperation). | |
| - In order to achieve the fullest possible degree of transparency, each Member shall report regularly to the TPRB..... Particular account shall be taken of difficulties presented to least-developed country Members in compiling their reports. The Secretariat shall make available technical assistance on request to developing country Members, and in particular to the least-developed country Members. Information contained in reports should to the greatest extent possible be coordinated with notifications made under | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| provisions of the Multilateral Trade Agreements and, where applicable, the Plurilateral Trade Agreements (annex 3: Trade Policy Review Mechanisms). | |
| **International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo (1994)** | |
| - To expedite the availability of improved and new methods for regulation of fertility, efforts must be made to increase the involvement of industry, including industry in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. A new type of partnership between the public and private sectors, including women and consumer groups, is needed to mobilize the experience and resources of industry while protecting the public interest. National drug and device regulatory agencies should be actively involved in all stages of the development process to ensure that all legal and ethical standards are met. Developed countries should assist research programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition with their knowledge, experience and technical expertise and promote the transfer of appropriate technologies to them. The international community should facilitate the establishment of manufacturing capacities for contraceptive commodities in developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, and countries with economies in transition (A/CONF.171/13, chapter XII, para.12.15). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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**World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (1995)**

- We commit ourselves to creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development;

- To this end, at the international level, we will:

...

- Support, particularly through technical and financial cooperation, the efforts of developing countries to achieve rapid, broadly based sustainable development. Particular consideration should be given to the special needs of small island and land-locked developing countries and the least developed countries (A/CONF.166/9, Copenhagen Declaration, Commitment 1(l)).

- International support for national efforts to promote a favourable political and legal environment must be in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law and consistent with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Support calls for the following actions:

...

- Strengthening the capacities of Governments, the private sector and civil society, especially in Africa and the least developed countries, to enable them to meet their specific and global responsibilities (A/CONF.166/9,

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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Programme of Action, chapter I, para.17(g)).

- The United Nations system should provide technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, in implementing the Declaration and Programme of Action. To this end:

(a) The United Nations system, including the technical and sectoral agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, should expand and improve their cooperation in the field of social development to ensure that their efforts are complementary and, where possible, should combine resources in joint initiatives for social development built around common objectives of the Summit;

(b) In order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations organizations in providing support for social development efforts at the national level, and to enhance their capacity to serve the objectives of the Summit, there is a need to renew, reform and revitalize the various parts of the United Nations system, in particular its operational activities. All specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system are invited to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to the Summit. Relevant governing bodies should review their policies, programmes, budgets and activities in this regard;

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
|---|---|

(c) The Administrative Committee on Coordination should consider how its participating entities might best coordinate their activities to implement the objectives of the Summit;

(d) Regular reports on their plans and programmes related to implementation should be provided to the appropriate forums by United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies (Programme of Action, chapter V, para.96).

**Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (1995)**

- The United Nations system should provide technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, in implementing the Platform for Action (A/CONF.177/L-7, Draft Platform for Action, chapter VI, para.356).

### C. Foreign direct investment

**UNCTAD VIII (1992)**

- Continued adequate support should be given for ongoing policy reforms adopted by many LDCs to improve the climate for private foreign investment (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.224).

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| **UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 39th session (1993)** | |
| - ... The LDCs also urged their developed country partners to help catalyze their development process through active and appropriate FDI (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX), para.8). | - It was stressed that properly conceived foreign direct investment (FDI) can be an important vehicle not only for stimulating the manufacturing and processing sectors and for mobilizing savings in LDCs, but also for the transfer of technology and managerial skills (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX), para.8). |
| **World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (1995)** | |
| - Within the framework of support to developing countries, giving priority to the needs of Africa and the least developed countries, the following actions are necessary at the national and international levels, as appropriate:<br>...- Supporting African countries and least developed countries in their efforts to create an enabling environment that attracts foreign and domestic direct investment, encourages savings, induces the return of flight capital and promotes the full participation of the private sector, including non-governmental organizations, in the growth and development process (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, chapter I, para.11(b)). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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## VI. EXTERNAL DEBT

**General Assembly - 45th session (1990)**

- The measures agreed upon in the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990, on the external debt problems of the least developed countries should be urgently and vigorously implemented (The International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, resolution 45/199, para.29).

- Donors should take the necessary steps to provide further bilateral concessional debt forgiveness to the least developed countries. (...) The Paris Club should consider the application of the terms agreed upon at the Toronto Economic Summit to all the least developed countries in accordance with established procedures and criteria; the Toronto options should be reviewed, taking into account the communique of the Houston Economic Summit; and proposals for further debt relief should be examined urgently. Financial institutions, particularly those providing non-concessional credits, are invited to give serious attention to measures to alleviate the burden of the debt that least developed countries owe to them (The International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| Development Decade, resolution 45/199, para.100). | |
| **UNCTAD VIII (1992)** | |
| - The Conference has thus identified the following areas for priority action: | |
| - ... The Conference notes that many countries have responded to Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) of 11 March 1978 by cancelling or providing equivalent relief for official development assistance debt. All donors which have not yet implemented such measures are urged to do so as a matter of priority (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.220(a)). | - For many least developed countries, external debt problems continue to constitute one of the most serious constraints to their economic growth and development. With regard to debt owed to official bilateral creditors, the Conference welcomes the recent measures taken by the Paris Club with regard to more generous terms of relief to the poorest most indebted countries. The Conference welcomes ongoing efforts to implement these Trinidad terms measures in a manner commensurate with their payments capacity and in a way that gives additional support to the economic reform efforts of those countries. The Conference also welcomes the substantial bilateral debt reduction undertaken by some creditor countries and encourages others which are in a position to do so to take similar action (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.220(a)). |
| - The Conference also urges the international community to consider undertaking the actions set out in the relevant paragraphs of section A of part IV of this document to address problems of LDCs in the areas of multilateral debt, payment arrears and commercial debt (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.220(b)). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| - With respect to commercial debt, UNCTAD should convene, in collaboration with relevant institutions, LDCs, donor countries, creditors and non-governmental organizations, an expert group meeting to review issues of commercial debt held by LDCs (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.223). | |
| **General Assembly - 48th session (1993)** | |
| - Welcomes the initiatives of some donor countries to write off and/or reduce, as appropriate, the official debt of the least developed countries, and invites others to take similar measures (resolution 48/171, para.11). | - Also expressing concern about the heavy debt stock and debt-service burden of the least developed countries, the limited market for their products and the reduced flow of development resources (resolution 48/171). |
| **UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 39th session (1993)** | |
| - .... Accordingly the need for further debt relief was emphasized by many delegations. The LDCs, and some donors, called for improvement of the scope and coverage of existing debt relief schemes and mechanisms, including those relating to debt service obligations to multilateral institutions. A long-term moratorium on LDCs' debt was also proposed by some delegations (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX), para.6). | - The current heavy debt burden of the LDCs continue to be a major strain on export earnings and a major hindrance to efforts to adjust and expand their economies (agreed conclusions 404 (XXXIX), para.6). |
| **UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 40th session (1994)** | |
| - ... The least developed countries, and some donors, called for improvement | - The Trade and Development Board (TDB) noted with concern that the debt |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| and continuation of the scope and coverage of existing debt relief schemes and mechanisms, including those relating to debt service obligations to multilateral institutions. In this connection many countries welcomed initiatives such as the replenishment through IMF/ESAF provided to alleviate this part of LDCs' debt. The Board drew attention to the commercial debt of the least developed countries and called for further action for the alleviation of such debt (agreed conclusions 413 (XL), para.7). | burden of the least developed countries, particularly those in Africa, was a serious constraint to their development. Appreciation was expressed for cancellations of ODA debt of LDCs undertaken by many creditor countries, and for the enhanced measures taken in the Paris Club to alleviate LDCs' debt. The donor countries were asked to continue with these measures. These measures, however, had not been adequate for debt-distressed LDCs. It was emphasized by many countries that much stronger initiatives were required to improve the current terms of debt-relief for bilateral official debt. The Board noted with particular concern the increasing share of multilateral obligations in the overall debt stock and debt servicing of LDCs (agreed conclusions 413 (XL), para.7). |
| **World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (1995)** | |
| - We commit ourselves to accelerating the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries.<br><br>To this end, we will:<br><br>- Find effective, development-oriented and durable solutions to external debt problems, through the immediate implementation of the terms of debt forgiveness agreed upon in the Paris Club in December 1994, which encompass debt reduction, including cancellation or other debt-relief measures; invite the international financial institutions to | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| examine innovative approaches to assist low-income countries with a high proportion of multilateral debt, with a view to alleviating their debt burdens; and develop techniques of debt conversion applied to social development programmes and projects in conformity with Summit priorities. These actions should take into account the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, and should be implemented as soon as possible (A/CONF.166/9, Copenhagen Declaration, Commitment 7, para.(c)).<br><br>- Substantial debt reduction is needed to enable developing countries to implement the Declaration and Programme of Action. Building on, inter alia, the momentum from the July 1994 meeting of the seven major industrialized countries in Naples and the October 1994 meeting of the governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, further progress can be made by:<br>...<br>- Adopting measures to substantially reduce the bilateral debts of the least developed countries, in particular the countries of Africa, as soon as possible, and exploring other innovative approaches to managing and alleviating the onerous debts and debt service burdens of other developing countries as soon as possible (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, chapter V, para.90(b)); | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| - Inviting creditor countries, private banks and multilateral financial institutions, within their prerogatives, to consider continuing the initiatives and efforts to address the commercial debt problems of the least developed countries and of low and middle-income developing countries; to consider the extension of appropriate new financial support to the low-income countries with substantial debt burdens that continue, at great cost, to service debt and meet their international obligations; to continue to explore ways of implementing additional and innovative measures to substantially alleviate the debt burdens of developing countries, in particular of the highly indebted low-income countries, in order to help them achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development without falling into a new debt crisis (A/CONF.166/9, Programme of Action, chapter V, para.90(f)). | |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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## VII. ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

**General Assembly - 46th session (1991)**

- *Requests* the Secretary-General, in conformity with paragraph 142 of the Programme of Action, to continue to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action, in close collaboration with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the secretariats of the regional commissions and the lead agencies for the aid groups (A/46/156, para.9);

- *Calls upon* all relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to establish focal points for the least developed countries, if they have not already been established, and to strengthen the existing ones in order to involve them actively in the implementation of the Programme of Action throughout the 1990s, and also calls upon those organs, organizations and programmes to take steps to implement the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action that falls within their areas of competence ((A/46/156, para.10).

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| **UNCTAD VIII (1992)**<br><br>- The Conference stresses the importance of the monitoring, follow-up and review process as envisaged in the Programme of Action and reaffirms the role of UNCTAD and the Trade and Development Board in this process, as provided in the Programme of Action and subsequently by the General Assembly in resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990. It calls upon all Governments, UNCTAD and other organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to make early and adequate preparations for an effective and comprehensive mid-term review of the Programme of Action in 1995. In pursuance of the request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in General Assembly resolution 46/156 of 19 December 1991 to obtain extrabudgetary resources to defray the cost of participation of one representative from each LDC at the annual review by the Board, the Conference strongly urges donor Governments and organizations to consider providing adequate resources for this purpose (A/364/Rev.1, A new partnership for development: the Cartagena Commitment, para.226). | |
| **General Assembly - 48th session (1993)**<br><br>- Stressing that the mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action provides a unique opportunity for the least developed countries and their development partners to take new measures as necessary, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Programme of | - Stresses the importance of effective follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for the Programme of Action, and notes that the annual follow-up of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action undertaken by the Trade and Development Board on the basis of the |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| Action during the rest of the 1990s,.. (resolution 48/171).<br><br>- Requests the Secretary-General, in conformity with paragraph 142 of the Programme of Action, to continue to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the secretariats of the regional commissions and the lead agencies of aid programmes (resolution 48/171, para.7).<br><br>- Urges all Governments and international organizations, including multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, to take adequate steps to ensure appropriate preparations for an in-depth mid-term global review of the Programme of Action (resolution 48/171, para.19).<br><br>- Stresses the importance of maintaining the institutional identity and visibility of the Division for the Least Developed Countries in the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which is entrusted with the task of global-level monitoring and follow-up of the Programme of Action, and welcomes the action taken by the Secretary-General to fill the vacant post of | annual report on the least developed countries helps contribute to the development dialogue between those countries and their development partners and urges that that exercise be strengthened (resolution 48/171, para.9).<br><br>- Stresses the importance of timely, adequate and thorough preparations for the mid-term global review (resolution 48/171, para.9). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| Director of the Division (resolution 48/171, para.21).<br><br>- Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, in resolution 46/156, to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to ensure the participation of at least one representative from each least developed country at the spring sessions of the Trade and Development Board, as well as at the preparatory intergovernmental, expert, sectoral and inter-agency meetings for the mid-term review process (resolution 48/171, para.22).<br><br>**UNCTAD Trade and Development Board - 39th session (1993)**<br><br>- In order to ensure effective follow-up, it was felt that UNCTAD's participation in country-level monitoring should be strengthened, notably through enhanced participation in the country review process. Collaboration between UNCTAD and the Bretton Woods institutions was noted. UNCTAD, in collaboration with all relevant parts of the United Nations system, should undertake substantive and thorough preparations for a comprehensive mid-term review of the Programme of Action, as recommended in General Assembly resolution 45/206 (agreed conclusions (XXXIX), para.10).<br><br>**World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama (1994)**<br><br>- Transmit the outcome of the World Conference to the mid-term global review conference on the implementation of the | - The need for adequate and timely preparations for an effective and comprehensive mid-term review of the Programme of Action in 1995 was stressed (agreed conclusions (XXXIX), para.10). |

| Goals, targets and commitments | Assessment |
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| Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries, to be held in 1995, as decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/171, and to the Commission on Sustainable Development in the initial review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, undertaken by the Commission in 1996, in accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work (A/CONF.172/9, Annex I, Plan of Action, para.14(c)). | |